(b) if so, the details thereof including results of the study and the follow-up action proposed to be taken thereon; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to protect the environment of construction area while implementing the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report prepared by National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur has studied the various environmental impacts of the project including impact on endangered flora and fauna such as turtles, whales, dolphins, sea cows, seaweeds, sea grasses, coral reefs, etc. due to the implementation of the project. As per the study, no significant impacts are envisaged to these marine lives by the project.

(c) Government has stipulated a number of stringent environmental measures and steps while granting environmental clearance. Some of the important conditions stipulated are:—

(i) Discharge of bilge, ballast, treated sewage, solid wastes, oily wastes and spillage of cargo will not be allowed in Gulf of Mannar.

(ii) All the ships using the route should have proper treatment facilities for sewage through treated sewage will not be allowed to be discharged in Gulf of Mannar area.

(iii) Effective monitoring of aquatic ecosystem should be done to ensure that no damage is done to the turtles, dugongs, flora and other endangered species.

(iv) Environment Management Plan prepared by NEERI, Nagpur should be implemented.

Wildlife crime in the country

540. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Secretary General of Convention of International trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora has written to the PM expressing concern on wildlife crimes in the country;

(b) whether the above International convention has given some suggestions to control this menace;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action plan of Government to implement the valuable ones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Secretary General, CITES in his letter has offered support of the Convention to provide technical expertise and to help facilitate the communication and coordination that will be needed to combat poaching and cross-border smuggling.

(d) Steps taken by the Government for conservation and protection of wildlife alongwith checking their smuggling are as under:

(i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. Rare and endangered species of wild animals and plants have been included in the Schedules of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby giving highest degree of protection.

(ii) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended and made more stringent. The punishment in cases of offences have been enhanced. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that has been used for committing any wild life offence.

(iii) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

(iv) Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-regional Offices for wildlife preservation at major export centers of the country to monitor trade in wild animals and their products.

(v) Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the State for providing effective protection to wild animals.

(vi) Government of India is a signatory to many international conventions concerning biodiversity conservation and control of illegal trade in wild flora and fauna.

(vii) India has bilateral arrangement with China and Nepal on Tiger Conservation and joint measures to crack down illegal activities of Tiger poaching and smuggling of the body parts.

Solid waste of slaughter houses

541. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court has fired the Central Pollution Control Board for its failure to deal with solid wastes of slaughter houses;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) In the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 309 of 2003 Laxmi Narain Modi Versus Union of India & Ors. on Slaughter Houses, the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 12/07/2005 has awarded costs of Rs. 25,000/- for the adjournment sought by the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) counsel.

(c) The CPCB would continue to file affidavits and details as called for by the Hon'ble Supreme Court regularly to avoid the necessity for seeking adjournments.

Withdrawal of World Heritage Status to Ghana National Bird Sanctuary

†542. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UNESCO's Heritage Committee has threatened to withdraw World Heritage status to Ghana National Bird Sanctuary due to its miserable condition;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.